II. Remarks

As a preliminary matter, the Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that a certified copy of the priority Canadian application number 2,299,824 has not yet been filed. The Applicant will be submitting a certified copy of the priority application in due course.

The Examiner rejected system claims 1-5 as-filed under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No.6,324,648 issued to Grantges ("Grantges") in view of United States application publication number US 20030097430 A1 ("Matsukura"). The Examiner rejected method claims 6-9 as-filed as being anticipated by Grantges under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

A configurable driver application system for facilitating communication of source data over a network between a network terminal and a network resource device, the source data provided by application software provisioned on the network terminal, the system comprising: a driver administrator module configured for communication with a resource registry, the resource registry including a resource record associated with the network resource device, the resource record providing a driver identifier for a resource driver associated with the network resource device, the driver administrator module being configured to configure the resource driver according to the driver identifier associated with the network resource device, the resource driver for receiving the source data and for translating the source data into a format suitable for processing by the network resource device; and a data transmitter configured for communication with the resource driver for transmitting the translated source data to the network resource device.

Method claim 6 has been amended to recite:

A method for facilitating communication over a network between a network terminal and a network

resource device, the method comprising the steps of: providing a request for communication between the network terminal and the network resource device; receiving application data for transmission by the network terminal to the network resource device from application software provisioned on the network terminal; querying a resource registry, the resource registry including a resource record associated with the network resource device, the resource record providing a driver identifier for a resource driver associated with the network resource device; configuring the network resource driver of the driver application system according to the driver identifier associated with the network resource device; translating the application data by the resource driver into a format suitable for processing by the network resource device; and directing the translated application data over the network in accordance with network address data of the network resource device.

Support for amendments addressed to the nature of the network resource device can be found in paragraph [0002] of the subject application which provides an illustrative list of computer resources "file servers, scanners, and printers" and at paragraph [0022]. Support for amendments addressed to the nature and function of the driver administrator module can be found at paragraphs [0037] to [0043] and at paragraph [0058] of the subject application.

Grantges teaches a computer system 20 that provides authenticated access from a client computer over an insecure, public network to one of a plurality of authorized applications hosted by destination servers on a private, secure network. This authorized access is done through use of a client-side digital certificate. Initially, user 18 of client computer 22 enters the destination URL into a web browser portion of client computer 22. The web browser then issues an HTTP request across insecure network 26, which is routed to proxy server 34. The user receives a "pop-up" message regarding establishment of the secure network connection. A user-selected digital certificate is then sent to proxy server 34. A first level authentication is conducted, outside the firewall, by proxy server 34. If authenticated at this level, proxy server 34 then sends the information contained in the client's digital certificate through firewall system 32 to gateway 38 to be authenticated at a second that

involves examining the particulars of the digital certificate using the data stored on authorization server 46. If user 18 is authorized to access multiple applications, the next item after the "popup" message to be displayed to user 18 is an "options page", presenting the multiple choices. Once a particular application is selected, the next item to be displayed for user 18 is the selected application.

According to the Examiner, Grantges discloses the claimed invention, apart from the resource record defining a resource type. The Examiner points to Matsukura as teaching resource records having therein a resource type, etc. and asserts that it would have been obvious to a a person of ordinary skill to have modified the teachings of Grantges according to Matsukura, because such a modification would facilitate the process of locating and making use of the resources according to the type and location accordingly.

Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite that the data to be transmitted is formatted so as to be suitable for processing by a network resource device, based on selection and configuration of an appropriate resource driver associated with the network resource device. The appropriately configured source driver of the system provides for translation of the source data for eventual processing by the corresponding network resource device. Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a secure unidirectional transfer of source or application data from the network terminal to a network resource device, as opposed to being a system for two-way secure real-time communication between applications, as is the case with the system of Grantges.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that a driver administrator module, which forms part of the network resource driver application, configures a resource driver according to a driver identifier associated with the network resource device.

Matsukara teaches a computer network system which allows a portable computer user to connect into a local network and to use network resources. In the system, an IP address is assigned

automatically to a destination of the portable personal computer 4 and information relating to shared resources on the network is obtained at the site from a server 1 through a local area network circuit 2, so that the the personal computer can be used by connecting to the network even in the absence of an administrator.

In Matsukura, a personal computer (within the LAN) broadcasts a request relating to usable resources, and a resource is set according to the content of resource information transmitted [para 0014]. While the computer may receive updated resource information, the system does not involve configuring a resource driver according to a network resource device, as currently claimed in independent claims 1 and 6. As explained at para [0056] of Matsukura, a resource information database 12 contains various resource details. Server 1 searches the resource information database 12 in response to a resource request message. The resource information list is received by the notebook in a manner understandable by the user and the user selects the resource. Matsukura therefore does not teach a driver administrator, which forms part of a network resource driver application, for configuring a resource driver according to the driver identifier associated with the network resource device and, as such, can not teach or suggest combining this element with the system of Grantges.

In light of the above remarks, and amendments submitted herewith, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is neither taught nor suggested by Grantges or Matsukura, and the Examiner is asked to withdraw the rejection of claim 1. As amended claims 2 through 5, and new claims 10 through 18 are dependent on, and narrower than, claim 1, the Applicant similarly submits that these claims are novel and inventive over the cited art.

In light of the above remarks, and amendments submitted herewith, the Applicant submits that claim 6 is also both novel and inventive in light of the cited art, and the Examiner is asked to withdraw the rejection of claim 6. As amended claims 7 through 9, and new claims 19 and 20 are

dependent on, and narrower than, claim 1, the Applicant similarly submits that these claims are novel and inventive over the cited art.

It is believed that the above remarks and amendments submitted herein have placed this present application in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is requested. Further, Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced into the subject application by the foregoing amendments. If the Examiner has further concerns, he is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at 416-862-4318. All correspondence should continue to be directed to listed address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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